

AWESOME GOD

Group Guide: Week 4

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- What's your favorite possession?
- Has there ever been a time you had to give up something you loved? What happened?

READ & DISCUSS UNDERSTAND & APPLY THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

This is the fourth week in our *Awesome God* series, where we've been looking at some of the ways God described Himself to His people. As we approach the year ahead in the faith that God is beside us, let's press in to know more about the God who we're asking to be with us!

This week speaks to that theme directly. We'll be asking ourselves: *do we want God's provision or His presence?* And we'll be asking that alongside Abraham, who faced that question in the heartrending experience of being asked to give up his own son.

READ	DISCUSS
Genesis 22:1-6	Even reading about the test God gives Abraham horrifies us. Far from God being a provider, here He looks like a cruel thief, even a murderer. What kind of God would ask something Abraham to do something like this? And yet Abraham not only obeys, he does so quickly—"he rose early in the morning"—and confidently—"I and the boy will come again to you." What explains Abraham's calm in the face of sacrificing "his son, his only son, who he loves"?
Genesis 22:7-14	Abraham <i>trusts in the character of God</i> . Even in the face of losing what God has provided for him, Abraham trusts in God's presence with him. And on that basis, Abraham trusts that "God will provide." Abraham holds nothing back from God, preferring trust in God's generous presence with him rather than in clinging to what God has provided. Is there anything you're holding back from God?
Genesis 22:15-19	Because Abraham doesn't hold back from God, God is completely openhanded with him. The surest foundation for our security isn't our possessions, but trusting in God to <i>provide for those who seek His presence</i> , even when we don't understand what He's doing. Are you seeking God's presence? What is holding you back from the sort of faithfulness and intimacy that Abraham had with God?

Read John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." God loved us enough to endure what Abraham was spared, the loss of His son. Take a moment and thank God for His deep and costly love for us, and ask that you might have the faithfulness to be fully openhanded with the God who loves us.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?